

Statement of James Landy, Esq.

Leonard Degnan is my best friend. I would and I have trusted him with my life. I respect his integrity, his honesty and his direct manner – bullheaded some would say. I have borne witness over the last three years of the personal anguish he has endured as he has been forced to confront his brief tenure and accountability as chief of staff to the former mayor.

I was his lawyer when he was interviewed multiple times by law enforcement seeking insight into allegations of wrongdoing at city hall. He testified at three grand juries and he's answered forthrightly every question asked of him. And he has always told the truth.

For two years prior to accepting the chief of staff position, Lenny did not speak with his former political ally, William Lantigua, because he so disapproved of the lack of moral compass shown by Mr. Lantigua in his marriage. Lenny agonized for months whether he should return in any capacity to city hall.

Lenny saw an opportunity to serve and bring the City of Lawrence back from financial disaster. There was a \$25 million deficit. He put in long hours and drafted two consecutive municipal budgets that eliminated that deficit.

The contract with Allied Waste was not renewed.

The local press never conceded any opportunity to attack the new administration and investigations were launched. (Parenthetically, the former Mayor Michael Sullivan facilitated the donation of five distinct vehicles from city vendors to third world countries with accolades from the same local press).